just as if these works had been indigenous productions, and not the collective plunder of other countries. If King Otho had purchased the Apollo surely it would have been no extraordinary act of vandalism to have transported it to Greece and set it up in Athens? What gives Italy the prescriptive right of possession in the higher productions of the art of foreign nations? Some day or other, some thousand years hence, we may have an American editor lamenting that the confederated republics of Greece have repurchased from the Provisional Government of Britain the Elgin marbles, and certainly they are as much art-products of England as the Apollo of Rome."

We cannot agree with our excellent correspondent in regarding this lament as an evidence of "untimely sensibility;" but join in deprecating earnestly any steps which should tend to break up the museums and galleries of Rome.

When the collections of private individuals, gathered together with time, discrimination, and pains, are distributed and sent east, west, north, and south, it is matter for deep regret. How much more so would it be in the case of those wonderful agglomerations of the results of human skill in Rome,—connected with it by so many associations, and which have formed for so long its chief glories!

If they are destined to be distributed, we should desire that they might come to England rather than be sent elsewhere, but so long as that can be prevented, we hope to see no inducements offered by our countrymen.

The newspapers say that the Edinburgh artists have been deprived of the opportunity of exhibiting their pictures this season at the Royal Academy, through the detention of the steamer which carried them. They did not arrive in London until the 9th, the day after the time fixed for receiving at the Academy, and the statement is, that the council considered the regulation imperative, and declined to receive them. If it were shown that the delay occurred through no fault of the artists, it may be thought that the council would have been justified, by the peculiar circumstances of the case, in overlooking the few hours by which the date had been exceeded. It is a hard thing for the artists, as the chance of obtaining a return for their labour is, in all probability, postponed until next season.

Apropos of which, we may mention that the general meeting of the Art-Union of London, for the reception of the annual report, and the distribution of the funds for the purchase of works of art, will be held in Drury-lane Theatre on Tuesday next, and will be open to all members and their friends. We shall give, as usual, a full report of the proceedings, and a correct list of the prizeholders.

As our gossip has fallen on matters of art, we may mention as amongst the works now exhibiting at the Cosmorama, in Regent-street, a remarkably beautiful model of Cologne Cathedral, with its spires completed, and forest of 5,000 pinnacles. It is the work of a German, Herr Charles Schropp, and is formed in wood and iron coloured: the niches are filled with their statues, and the windows with painted glass. It is 8 ft. 8 in. in length, 4 ft. wide, and 8 ft. high, and was completed, the modeller says, in eight years. It gives an admirable idea of this wonderful structure, and deserves a visit.

The last time we saw the cathedral of [illegible], thousands of persons were crowded around it, from all parts of Germany and many parts of Europe. The King of Prussia was about to lay the first stone of the new works, and the words he used on the occasion are still ringing in our ears. "Here where the ground-stone lies," said he, "here by these towers, will arise the noblest portal in the world. Germany builds it,—may it be for her, with God's will, the portal of a new era, great and good! Far from here be all wickedness, all iniquity, and all that is ungenuine and therefore un-German! May dis-union between the German princes and their people, between different faiths and different classes never find this road; and never may that feeling appear here, which, in former times, stopped the progress of this temple,—aye, even stopped the advance of our fatherland! Men of Cologne, the possession of this building is a high privilege for your city, enjoyed by none other, and nobly this day have you shown that you recognise it as such. Shout, then, with me, and while you shout will I strike the ground-stone;—shout loudly with me your rallying cry, ten centuries old, 'Cologne for ever!'"

And loudly was it echoed far and wide, "Cologne for ever!"

Since then great changes have taken place in Germany, calculated, we fear, to retard the progress of this important work.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

AWARD OF MEDALS.

AT an ordinary meeting of the Institute held on the 16th inst., Mr. Sydney Smirke, V. P., in the chair, the following report from the council, on the award of the royal medal, and the essays and drawings submitted in competition for the other medals, was read:—

"The council have to report to the meeting, that pursuant to the notice publicly given, they proceeded, on the 29th of January last, 'to take into consideration the awarding of the Royal Medal for the year 1848, to the author of some literary publication connected with architecture; and having received and examined the several claims submitted, at a subsequent meeting, on the 12th of March, it was resolved, That the Royal Gold Medal be awarded to the Signor Cavaliere Luigi Canina of Rome, as the historian of architecture from the earliest period, and for his antiquarian researches; he having published a series of important works on the various styles of art, and likewise on the tombs of Etruria, the cities of ancient Latium, and other antique remains.'

This resolution of the council having been duly notified to her Majesty the Queen by the president, his Lordship was authorised to express to the council the full approbation by her Majesty of the award.

For the medal of the Institute offered for the best essay 'On the Peculiar Characteristics of the Palladian School of Architecture, and a comparison and contrast of its elementary principles and details with those of Ancient Roman Art,"—three essays were submitted in competition, distinguished by the following mottoes and marks:—No. 1. 'There's something of Magnificence about us we have not seen at Rome;' 2. 'How different, yet how like the same:' 3. 'The Letter X.' The council are of opinion that the essay designated by the motto, 'There's something of Magnificence about us we have not seen at Rome,' possesses considerable merit, and is entitled to the reward offered, and they therefore recommend that the silver medal of the Institute be awarded to it accordingly.

For the medal offered for an essay 'On the best manner of covering the roofs, and forming the flats and gutters of buildings,' &c., there are two competitors: one essay bearing the motto '*Finis coronat opus*,' and the other 'Spe,'—but neither of them possesses sufficient merit to justify the council in awarding the medal on this occasion.

For 'the Soane Medallion,' the subject being, 'A Design for a Building to serve as a national Repository and Museum for the illustration and exhibition of the productions of the industrial arts, with all suitable accessories, &c:' six designs have been received, thus distinguished:—1. 'Simplicitas,' 2. 'Solidity, Convenience, Delight,' 3. 'Endymion,' 4. 'Esticot,' 5. 'Justitia! imploro Fidem,' 6. 'Usui populi decori Regni.' It is with feelings of sincere regret the council announce that they cannot recommend the award of the Soane Medallion on this occasion. They deem it proper to state that the designs submitted exhibit generally a surprising deficiency of the recognised elementary principles of architectural composition, together with a lamentable want of constructive knowledge. In some, prominent and integral portions of the structure are impracticable as to execution; in others, the most glaring discrepancies are apparent between the plans, sections, and elevations, and although it may be thought of minor importance, the drawings in general exhibit great negligence in execution, both as regards outlining and shading. The council consider that with a just regard to the best interests of those who aspire to be distinguished for their education and taste in the art, they are necessitated to withhold the reward offered, lest it might be inferred that the institute adopts as a standard of merit, either of the productions now submitted."

Mr. C. Fowler said he thought it desirable that the award of the medals should be the act of the Institute, and not of the council alone; but in this case, as the report must be put to the meeting for confirmation, it would also be open to objection.

Mr. Godwin said, that to alter the award now was, of course, out of the question, as it had been communicated to her Majesty, and had received approval; but he would nevertheless strongly express his dissent from the policy of the council in sending the Royal medal abroad so early, considering how few honorary rewards were open to English architects and architectural investigators.

It was ultimately ruled that the award was in the hands of the council, and did not need the confirmation of the meeting. The report, therefore, was not put for reception by the meeting, a departure, to the best of our recollection, from the proceedings in similar cases before.

The letter which accompanied the selected essay being opened, the author was found to be Mr. Wyatt Papworth.

Mr. Robert Rawlinson, one of the superintending inspectors in the General Board of Health, then read a paper, prepared for our columns, and which follows this note, on the hollow brick ceiling recently turned over St. George's Hall, Liverpool, and on hollow brick constructions generally.

During the discussion which afterwards ensued, the Chairman said that, as to the use of *terra-cotta*, we were quite in our infancy, and might with advantage look back to the works of the ancients. Some time ago he had applied to the principal drain-pipe makers respecting some tubes 3 feet in diameter, and found they could not be had. Twenty years ago he had seen abroad earthenware pipes of this diameter, lining a well 3,500 years old, with holes for the toes in the event of desiring to descend.—Mr. Garling reminded the meeting that hollow bricks had been used by Soane and others, and were probably abandoned because of expense.—Mr. Fowler spoke of their use for floors in Berlin.

Mr. Edwin Chadwick said the expense now was much lessened: 1,000 tiles made by the machine cost about ten or twelve shillings, and it was thought 1,000 bricks could be obtained for 2s. more. Wherever tiles were made, these bricks could be made. As to strength, the hollow brick was stronger than the solid, probably because more dense and better burnt.

THE HEALTH OF TOWNS ASSOCIATION held their annual general meeting on Tuesday at the house of the Statistical Society, St. James's-square, the Hon. Frederick Byng in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the president, by Dr. Guy, Dr. Aldis, Mr. John Gunter, Mr. Mackinnon, M.P., Mr. P. H. Holland, Dr. Oliver, Mr. Grainger, Mr. Liddle, the Hon. H. Melville, and Dr. Melroy. The usual business of the year was moved and adopted, and a vote of thanks to the chairman passed before the meeting separated. An appeal to the public for subscriptions was made, and ought to be listened to.

GREAT GRIMSBY DOCKS.—On Wednesday the first stone of the Great Grimsby Docks (weighing 11 tons!) was laid by his Royal Highness Prince Albert. We shall give some particulars of this undertaking next week.

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